

HISTORIC OLD CHURCH DOOMED TO THE FLAMES

Help Summoned From Quebec in Attempt to Save Beauport Church.

By Canadian Press.

Québec, Feb. 21.—The historic Roman Catholic church at Beauport is on fire and is doomed to destruction, it is said.

The historical church at Beauport, near Quebec, is on fire. The flames at 10 a.m., had already destroyed the rear, near the heating furnaces, and is now eating its way to the whole structure.

Beauport has no fire-fighting apparatus, and help has just been summoned from Quebec, but it seems nothing can prevent the flames from destroying the whole of the sacred edifice.

Loss Nears Half Million.

At noon there only remains one of the church towers, and the crash down of this latter tower is momentarily expected. The damage is estimated at \$480,000, with only \$75,000 insurance.

The church that was destroyed was one of the oldest on the coast of Beauport. It was not really old, but had been rebuilt on its old site, after being destroyed by fire six years ago last January 26. It rested on the exact spot where, in the early days of the colony, the worshippers spread along the coast of Beauport, erected the first church in the parish.

Firemen Could Only Watch.

Of the contents of the edifice a large proportion was saved, namely a good number of the statues, the vestments, etc., but only a few of the statues of the Way of the Cross could be carried out of the church, also a few of the pews.

The parish had purchased a pipe organ at the cost of \$13,000, and it was only installed last summer. This organ bore only \$10,000 insurance.

Beauport had no water available for fighting the fire to-day and all the Quebec firemen could do was stand idle and watch the flames eat their way through the church.

Fear One Life Lost.

At twelve o'clock a report comes from the scene stating a lad named Deziel was seen to enter the church to save a statue but has not yet been accounted for.